



St John's Episcopal Church, Lancaster PA

The Messenger - APRIL

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Food Pantry Quick News

* Thanks to a Food Recovery Infrastructure Grant from the state of PA (whose aim is to preserve and move surplus food to people who can use it, rather than to landfills), we've been able to purchase a new larger refrigerator and freezer, and we now have a heavy-duty dolly for moving large amounts of food within our campus.

* Thanks to so many people who've brought us their egg cartons, we currently have a "gracious plenty" and won't need any more for a while. (We'll let you know if we begin to run low.)



RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Amanda+

And consider looking through a new lens over the next fifty days – the lens of an empty tomb, where dreams are realized, new life is offered, and hope is restored. Alleluia, Christ is risen! The Lord is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

I remain faithfully
yours,

Amanda+

Dear St. John's family
and friends,

Alleluia, Christ is risen! I'm not sure it's possible to ever grow weary of hearing or proclaiming those life altering words. The fifty days of Easter are the culmination of the Christian faith. For seven weeks, we are invited to not only proclaim resurrection, but to live resurrected lives. But what does a life resurrected look like? Frederick Buechner in *Listening to Your Life* describes it with the following,

"The life you clutch, hoard, guard, and play safe with is in the end a life worth little to anybody, including yourself, only a life given away for love's sake is a life worth living."

Jesus knew this better than anyone. No one, not even Jesus' closest disciples, could prepare for the events that unfolded on Easter morning. When Jesus gave up his life no one could have imagined how God might bless His sacrifice and how we might be the recipients of that blessing! The Good News of Easter cannot be contained by a single day. So, for fifty days we will feast, pray while standing - a sign of resurrection, sing alleluias, and live into this newfound vocation by giving away our own lives for the sake of others.

As you gather with friends and family and as you watch the world come to life yet again this spring, consider the invitation the great fifty days of Easter offers. A gift unused is a gift wasted. Explore the myriad of ways God's gift of new life can be shared, experienced, and enjoyed. Offer your time, your passion, your energy to spreading the hope and love Christ offers through the gift of a life given away.

A Letter from our Seminarian



During Holy Week, I like to take some time to reflect on my Lenten practices. This year, the word that keeps coming up for me is expectation. Throughout Lent, I committed to weaving more rest into my daily life with the expectation that God would be present to me in those spaces I created. Sometimes, that was true. But oftentimes, God was most present to me in the places I least expected. I keep coming back to the story of the women who went to the tomb only to find it empty—their expectations for the morning disrupted by resurrection.

Seminary has been nothing like what I expected it to be—and for that I am glad. I never could have anticipated the joys (and challenges!) of worshipping, living, learning, and eating in a community such as this. I had the opportunity to spend three weeks in Puerto Rico in January with a small group of students and faculty from VTS learning about the Episcopal Diocese of Puerto Rico. This semester I am taking Old Testament, New Testament, Contemporary Witness of the Church, Liberation Theologies, and the Bible in Spanish. A huge thank you to those of you

who purchased books for me, and I am so grateful for all of your prayers, letters, emails, and texts encouraging me along the way!

Outside of classes, books, and chapel I am spending time playing soccer on a local women's league, exploring hiking trails around DC and running. I recruited some classmates to participate in DC's Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon with me a few weekends ago! My current "for fun" book is called *Midwinter of the Spirit*, the second book in a mystery series by Phil Rickman about Rev. Merrily Watkins, a Diocesan Exorcist in the Church of England, living in small town on the border of England and Wales who helps the police solve crimes.

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter, may we be present to the unexpected places that God is present among us.

Peace,
Emma Di Pace



TLC Movie Night



Thursday, April 25th from 6-9pm in the Parish Hall

Join the Trans Loving Community group for a fun evening of hanging out. We'll watch the feel-good cult classic "To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar" starring Patrick Swayze, Wesley Snipes, & John Leguizamo as drag queens on a cross-country road trip. Come for the whole movie, or just stop by for some popcorn!

To RSVP please email Maria Weaver-Hollowniczky at MariaWeaverH@gmail.com or see Dani Myers.

SAVE THE DATE

END OF LIFE PLANNING WORKSHOP

End-of-Life Planning Checklist


- Health care & medical items
- Financial & legal items
- Digital legacy items
- Legacy items
- Funeral items

MAY | 11TH | 2024

DURING THE VOYAGERS MEETING AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE PARISH HALL
321 W. CHESTNUT STREET, LANCASTER

TLC Tips

How to WELCOME Non-Binary People *What does non-binary mean anyway?*



they them

Most people –including most transgender people – are men or women. But some people don't fit into either category. "Some people have a gender which blends elements of being a man and a woman, or a gender that is different than either male or female. Some people don't identify with any gender. Some people's gender fluctuates over time."*

People whose gender is not solely male all the time nor solely female all the time may use the term non-binary to describe themselves. Other terms for gender beyond the binary include genderfluid, agender, third gender, two-spirit (indigenous origin), and genderqueer. The term an individual uses is completely up to them, and may change over time.

Because all gender is an internal knowledge, you can only know someone is non-binary when they tell you they are non-binary. Their pronouns may be he, she, they, other pronouns, or any combination of pronouns. They may dress and act (called "presenting") in typically "masculine" or "feminine" or "androgynous" ways or any combination of ways.

Non-binary people may keep their birth names or change their birth names. They may seek to change their bodies cosmetically or medically to align with their non-binary gender (called gender-affirming care) or they may not. Some well-known people who identify as genders outside the binary include singer Sam Smith (genderfluid, they/them pronouns), Jonathan Van Ness from *Queer Eye* (non-binary, he/she/they pronouns), actor Suzy Eddie Izzard (genderfluid, she/he pronouns), and comedian Hannah Gadsby (genderqueer/gender non-conforming, they/them).

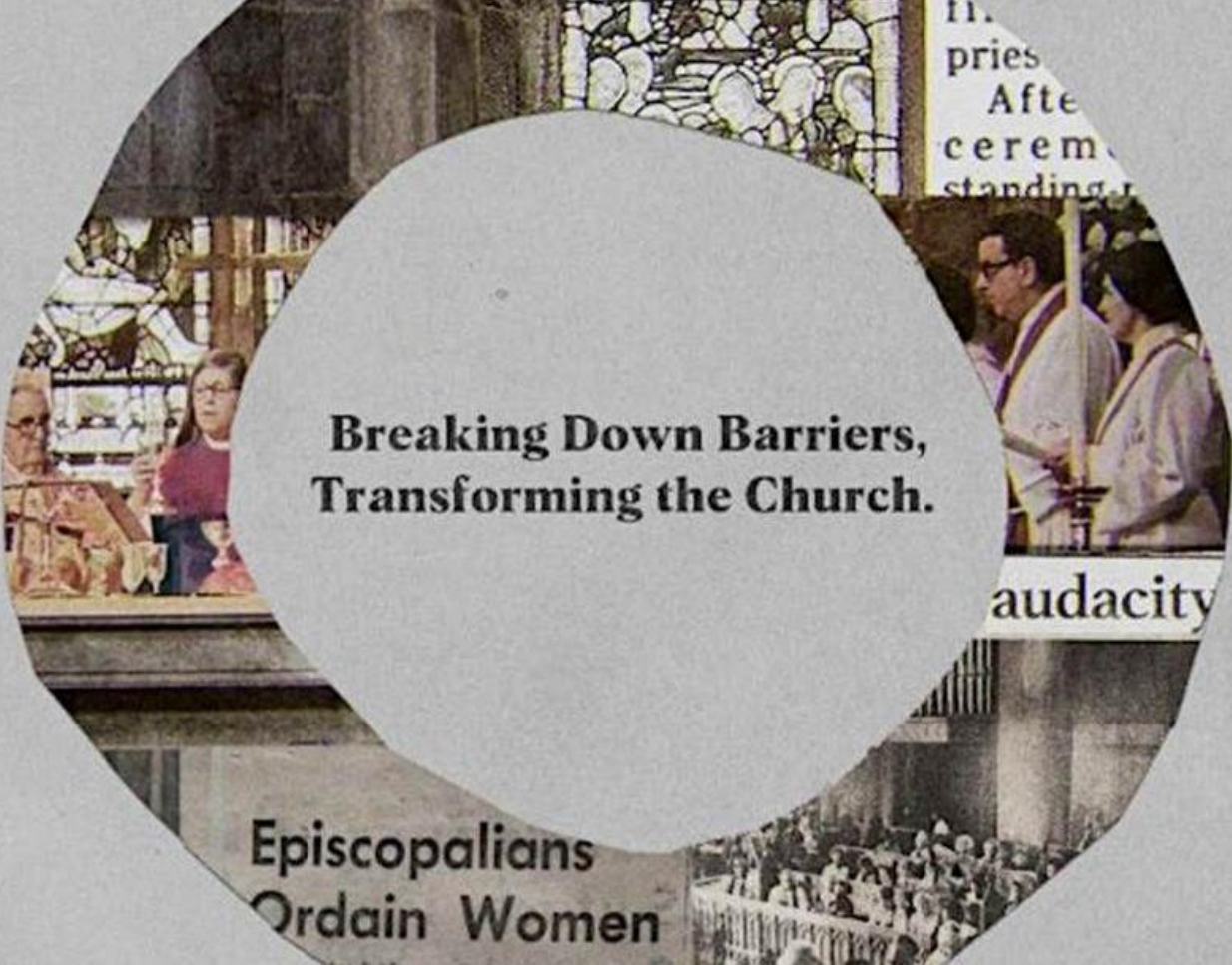
Like all transgender people, non-binary people are increasingly under attack in word and deed from political and religious hate groups; thus, it's increasingly important to offer communities, groups, and physical spaces where non-binary people can feel safe and cherished for who they are.

TIPS TO WELCOME NON-BINARY PEOPLE

1. Use inclusive language. Refer to groups of people without assuming there are only two genders present. Instead of "ladies & gentleman" or "brothers & sisters" consider terms such as "friends", "siblings", "everyone". In church settings, include non-gendered names for "God the Father" such as Holy One, Great Spirit, or simply God.
2. Look for and use each person's current pronouns & their current name —remember that these may change throughout someone's life. If you mess up, correct yourself quickly and move on. Effort not perfection is important. Practice offering your own pronouns in introductions and on nametags.
3. Ask non-binary people what you can do to support them. Too often the onus is put on the non-binary person to ask for what they need or to bring up any problems they encounter. Taking the initiative to ask first can be a great way to make someone feel like their presence is valued rather than a burden.

Definition of the month: GENDER refers to your *internal* knowledge of your own gender—for example, your personal knowledge that you're a man, a woman or another gender. Increasingly, gender is seen as a spectrum rather than as a binary.

*Information used directly from or paraphrased from The National Center for Transgender Equality transequality.org. Many thanks to the Rev. Jen Trenary for their invaluable input in this article



**Breaking Down Barriers,
Transforming the Church.**

**Episcopalians
Ordain Women**

On April 26th, beginning at 5:30PM, the Episcopal Diocese of Central PA will be hosting a showing of the documentary film "The Philadelphia Eleven" at St. Thomas, Lancaster!

The evening will include a dinner with a panel discussion, the showing of the film, and a dessert reception to follow. We are hoping for a great turnout from our diocese and have worked hard to make this a true celebration! This event is free but a free will offering will be collected. Please register on St. Thomas' website!



**The
Philadelphia Eleven**

TIME TRAVEL PRODUCTIONS LLC PRESENTS "THE PHILADELPHIA ELEVEN"
A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY MARGO GUERNSEY & NIKKI BRAMLEY
EDITOR RABAB HAJ YAHYA ORIGINAL MUSIC SAUL SIMON MACWILLIAMS
ARCHIVAL PRODUCER HEATHER MERRILL EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS M.E. & KATHIE ECCLES
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY NIKKI BRAMLEY
DIRECTED & PRODUCED BY MARGO GUERNSEY

Creation Care Conference

SOUTHERN REGION: APRIL 21ST, 2 - 4:30PM



If you are unable to join us for these in-person sessions, you can still provide feedback on the drafted plan here: <https://forms.gle/1XAwuHXSIGxxUer8>

With gratitude for our shared ministry,
Katie Ruth
Chair, Creation Care Committee

Be part of helping shape the future of ministry in our community! Join The Rt. Rev. Bishop Audrey Scanlan and the DIOCPA Creation Care Committee for the very first Creation Care Conference of the Parishes (COP1). We will gather together for an afternoon of creation care storytelling and to review the drafted DIOCPA Creation Care Plan. We will provide hot drinks and snacks. It will be an interactive afternoon, so bring a pen, notebook, and your voice. We encourage you to review the Drafted Creation Care Plan in advance of our time together.



VOYAGERS

VOYAGERS TO HOST LANCASTER DOWNTOWNERS

On Saturday April 13, Melissa Ressler of the Lancaster Downtowners will be the Voyagers' guest presenter. Lancaster Downtowners is a nonprofit that connects people choosing to age in community by providing social, educational, and wellness programs. It also provides informed recommendations when other services such as volunteer support for everyday tasks are needed. Join us in a conversation about how we can reshape our community through independence and interdependence.

We offer coffee and tea at each of our meetings. Feel free to bring something to share but do not feel obligated.

We will not be meeting in July and August, but we will resume in September.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Voyagers meet on the second Saturday of each month at 9:00 AM.

Our May and June meetings will be open to all members of St. John's regardless of age.

On May 11, we will have a panel discussion on life planning. Rosemary Coverly has assembled an excellent panel to lead the conversation on how we can plan to best take care of our heirs. There is a separate article in the Messenger for more information.

On June 13, Drew Dorgan will lead a discussion on the potential reunification of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania with the Diocese of Bethlehem. Come and learn the potential ramifications of the merger. How does it affect us?

"JUSTICE 4 EDUCATION" RALLY

I'm writing to invite you to come to the "Justice 4 Education" rally at McCaskey High School on Thursday, April 18th, starting at 4pm.

This event will be our first opportunity to demonstrate to the community—and especially to our legislators—that Full and Fair Funding is something that Pennsylvania's voters really want to see.

Speakers will include: SDOL Superintendent Keith Miles, Representative Mike Sturla, Representative Izzy Smith Wade-El, Rev. Roland Forbes, Erin Small of EducationVotersPA, parent Dominique Botto, Rev. Pat McAllister, and several teachers and students.

We have the chance to change one aspect of our economic structure that has historically discriminated against poor and Black and Brown students. If the General Assembly can pass the governor's budget proposal this year and also pass a law enacting the full 7-year program to close the adequacy gap for every school district, we will be able to take incredible strides toward a world where all children can have access to an excellent education.

FAIR FUNDING for EDUCATION

Thursday, APRIL 18, 4pm
McCaskey High School
North Reservoir Street and
Lehigh Avenue, Lancaster



Our legislators and the media will be watching. I can't emphasize enough how important it is we understand this issue and attend the Justice 4 Education rally.

Registration is at 4pm and the speakers will begin around 4:15pm.

With hope and faith,

Beth Reeves
POWER Interfaith Lancaster County
Education Justice co-chair
717-468-3912

CAPITOL CAMPAIGN



A VERY CURIOUS HISTORY

Did you know that for the first several years of St. John's history, services were held in the Undercroft and not in the church?

Did you know that two of the twelve disciples are MIA in the Mary's window? Wonder which two they are?

Come and join us for a guided tour of our beautiful church and campus and take a brief dip into our history as we embark on our Capital Campaign: The Power of Warmth and Light. Tours will occur on the last two Sundays in April (April 21 and 28) between the services and all are welcomed.

GLOBAL

PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE



April is National Garden Month. The earth is a gift to all of us, and it is our job to care for it!

APRIL 1ST

Wildlife Week - How can we each save our earth?

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

APRIL 8TH

Music Therapy Week

Take a moment, feel the calm and the smiles when you are listening to music, in church, a hymn that touches you.

APRIL 15TH

"Do not dwell in the past, do not fear of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment." - Buddha

Plant smiles, kind gestures, share anything as nothing is too small as those without are grateful for anything.

APRIL 22ND

"I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." -MLK

APRIL 29TH

Find the farmers markets in our blessed area that pick their plants and drive to deliver to us with health and environmental care. Share with our families both blood related and caring related. Think of those coming to the food pantry and how we could help.

TREASURER'S REPORT

CHARLES WEAR

	2023			2024		
	Actual Feb	Actual YTD	Budget Full Yr	Actual Feb	Actual YTD	Budget Full Yr
Income						
Pledge Income	\$29.6	\$107.7	\$415.0	\$55.2	\$112.9	\$428.4
Other Contributions	\$3.1	\$9.2	\$50.5	\$2.0	\$10.9	\$69.5
Investment Draws	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$63.6	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$66.3
Other Income	\$2.5	\$2.5	\$0.0	(\$0.1)	(\$0.1)	\$0.0
Income to Transfer	\$2.1	\$3.7	\$20.7	\$2.0	\$2.9	\$22.3
Jubilee	\$1.6	\$2.9	\$23.9	\$2.9	\$12.4	\$25.5
Total Income	\$38.9	\$126.1	\$573.7	\$62.1	\$139.0	\$612.0
Expenses						
Clergy	\$15.4	\$33.9	\$247.0	21.5	\$43.0	\$265.3
Lay Staff	\$5.8	\$15.0	\$116.5	8.3	\$19.0	\$102.6
Vestry/Finance/Comm	\$3.3	\$6.3	\$27.6	\$3.8	\$5.4	\$34.2
Utilities	\$4.4	\$11.0	\$39.2	\$6.0	\$9.9	\$41.6
Building Repairs & Supplies	\$1.6	\$3.1	\$33.6	\$3.4	\$5.3	\$33.1
Other Property	\$0.2	\$2.5	\$28.9	\$2.6	\$5.3	\$31.1
Worship/Ed/Community	\$0.4	\$1.3	\$17.2	\$11.0	\$11.7	\$13.8
Outreach	\$5.3	\$11.1	\$64.6	5.9	\$10.6	\$62.3
Jubilee	\$1.0	\$2.1	\$34.2	\$6.8	\$9.0	\$28.1
Total Expenses	\$37.3	\$86.3	\$608.7	\$69.4	\$119.2	\$612.0
Net Total	\$1.6	\$39.7	(\$35.0)	(\$7.3)	\$19.7	\$0.0

We finished the month of February with an operating deficit of \$7.3k. High pledge income was offset by heavy J2A, food pantry and music supply expenses. These expenses will ultimately be reconciled to the budget with restricted account transfers assigned for each purpose.

Effective March 1, the Vestry elevated the property manager role to a full-time position. This will increase spending by \$24.3k on an annualized basis.

A \$816.3k contract for the new HVAC system was signed in late February, ahead of schedule to avoid a price increase. A down payment of \$245k was made using a mix of gifts and investment funds per Vestry direction. Layered financing from the Diocese and Orrstown Bank has been approved for any cash needs that outpace future capital campaign donations.

Birthdays

1 - April Way
1 - Emma Bramble
2 - John Faust
3 - Maria Sauder
7 - Kevin Henry
9 - Owen Wendler
11 - Thuan Pham
12 - Michael Stank
13 - Angela Cuthbert
14 - Janice Henry
14 - Glenn Miller
15 - Ron Barton
16 - Eric Waskowicz
17 - Sandra Grove
18 - Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer
19 - Rose Wenger
20 - Sue Dodge
22 - Ronald Linton
22 - Heidi Leitzke
23 - Sophie Brown
23 - Drigan Lee
23 - Gwynneth Mann
26 - Leslie Tahsler
27 - Vivian Lord
27 - Claire Thompson
27 - Ty Humphrey
27 - Dan Siewert
29 - Maggie Lee

Anniversaries

12 - John & Barbara Graeter
19 - April & Joe Way
22 - Bob & Mary Ellen Kilp
24 - Bob & Maggie Springer
30 - Mike & Phyllis Gbur

Church Prayer List

Pat Pankey, Jeannie Zeller, Kent Strickler,
Glenda Broad, Don Doolittle, Nancy Strasburg,
Justin & Lisa, Ella, Matt Patterson, Kevin,
Judy Modene, Andrew Gilpin, Ann Marie,
Cheryl & Rhoda, Ted Griswold,
Rich Hartley, Justice Deleo & New Family,
Richard Anderson, Ruth & George,
Rich & Karen Garon, Shirley Parmer,
Kelley Paulsen, Bart Smallwood

Friends at Home

Ellen Keller, Nancy Nemith, Peter Plaxa,
Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney, Al Kuser,
Mary Sue Farmer, Ellen Sellers, Edith Kane,
Merle Schnee, Carol Greenfield, Sandy Grove,
Carole Humphrey, Darlene Bentley, Peggy Zuke

Serving in the Military

Amelia Dissinger, Alex Kelly, Brooks Morgan,
Brian Hobbins, Joshua Watkins,
Kirby Kinderwater, Kyle Kinderwater,
David Wolfe

Church CALENDAR

Monday the 1st

Office Closed

4:30PM Trans Loving Community

Tuesday the 2nd

1:30PM Martha's Ministry

2:30PM Food Pantry

5:00PM Executive Committee

Wednesday the 3rd

12:00PM Healing Service

7:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday the 4th

9:00AM Minister's Meeting

10:00AM Worship Committee

2:30PM Food Pantry

Friday the 5th

Rector's Day Off

5:00PM Wedding Dress Rehearsal

Saturday the 6th

4:00PM McMillan - Donover Wedding

Sunday the 7th

8:00AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I

9:15AM Sunday School

10:15AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Monday the 8th

6:00PM Caring Ministry

6:00PM Ministries Council

Tuesday the 9th

1:30PM Martha's Ministry

2:30PM Food Pantry

4:00PM Finance Committee

Wednesday the 10th

12:00PM Healing Service

7:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday the 11th

9:00AM Minister's Meeting

2:30PM Food Pantry

Friday the 12th

Rector's Day Off

5:00PM Wedding Dress Rehearsal

Saturday the 13th

9:00AM Voyager's Meeting

2:30PM Ciuchta - Sellers Wedding

Sunday the 14th

8:00AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I

9:15AM Sunday School

10:15AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Tuesday the 16th

1:30PM Martha's Ministry

2:30PM Food Pantry

Wednesday the 17th

12:00PM Healing Service

7:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday the 18th

9:00AM Minister's Meeting

2:30PM Food Pantry

Friday the 19th

Rector's Day Off

Saturday the 20th

9:00AM Community Breakfast

at First Reformed

Sunday the 21st

8:00AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I

9:15AM Sunday School

10:15AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II

12:00PM Vestry Meeting

Monday the 22nd

6:00PM Stewardship Committee

Tuesday the 23rd

7:00AM Election Day Bake Sale

1:30PM Martha's Ministry

2:30PM Food Pantry

Wednesday the 24th

12:00PM Healing Service

7:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday the 25th

9:00AM Minister's Meeting

2:30PM Food Pantry

Friday the 26th

Rector's Day Off

5:30PM Philadelphia Eleven Movie

Sunday the 28th

Doug Beach's Last Sunday

8:00AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I

9:15AM Sunday School

10:15AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Tuesday the 30th

1:30PM Martha's Ministry

2:30PM Food Pantry